

**Remarks**

Claims 3-8, 10-14, 17-19, 22-24, 27-29, and 31-39 remain in this application.

Claims 3, 10, 12, 13, 17-19, 22-24, 27 and 31-34 have been amended in form to comply with the requirements of the Office Action. Claims 1, 2, 9, 11, 15, 16, 20, 21, 25, 26, 30 and 40-44 have been canceled to allow issuance of claims 3-8, 10-14, 17-19, 22-24, 27-29, and 31-39, without prejudice to the underlying subject matter.

Claim 15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 1, 2, 9, 16, 20, 21, 25, 26, 30 and 40-44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Young et al. Claims 1, 2, 9, 15, 16, 20, 21, 25, 26, 30 and 40-44 have been canceled for the sole purpose of allowing issuance of claims 3-8, 10-14, 17-19, 22-24, 27-29, and 31-39, without prejudice to the underlying subject matter. Therefore, these rejections should be moot.

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for indicating the allowability of claims 3-8, 10-14, 17-19, 22-24, 27-29 and 31-39 if amended to include all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Claims 3, 10, 12, 13, 17-19, 22-24, 27 and 31-34 have been amended in form to comply with the requirements of the Office Action.

Applicant submits that claims 3-8, 10-14, 17-19, 22-24, 27-29 and 31-39 are in allowable form. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance to this effect is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 724-933-3387 to discuss any matter concerning this application.

Appl. No. 09/752,372

Reply to Office Action of October 21, 2003 (Paper No. 7)

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on: 12/09/03.

  
Deborah Higham

12/09/03  
Date

Dated: 12/09/03

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